

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 268039

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCPAC POLAD PASS AMBASSADOR SELDEN AND DCM WALTER HALL, COM

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO SEOUL SUVA FROM USUN
NEW YORK 05 DEC 74:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5699

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, FJ

SUBJ: FIJIAN POSITION ON KOREA

1. AMB BENNETT TOOK UP WITH AMB SIKIVOU ON DEC 4 QUESTION OF FIJIAN POSITION ON KOREAN ISSUE AND ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS CHANCE OF MOVING HIM FROM HIS ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO ABSTAIN ON ALL ASPECTS OF KOREAN VOTE. SIKIVOU CONFIRMED THIS WAS HIS PLAN AND SAID IT RESULTED FROM INSTRUCTIONS SENT HIM FROM SUVA. HE WOULD REALLY PREFER TO HAVE A CONSENSUS ON KOREAN ISSUE AND THROURHOUT CONVERSATION, DURING WHICH HE WAS RATHER DIS-TRAUGHT, HE KEPT SAYING THAT HE WAS TRYING TO GET IN TOUCH WITH INDONESIA AND SWEDEN TO WORK WITH THEM ON A CONSENSUS SOLUTION.

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3. AMB BENNETT REMINDED SIKIVOU THAT NO ONE HAD WORKED HARDER

THAN WE LAST YEAR TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS AND THAT WE WOULD BE PERFECTLY HAPPY WITH AN APPROPRIATE CONSENSUS THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, UP TO NOW NORTH KOREANS HAD ADAMANTLY REJECTED ANY CONSENSUS. SIKIVOU ACKNOWLEDGED THIS WAS TRUE.

4. SIKIVOU HAD SOME TROUBLE IN COMING OUT WITH AN EXPLANATION FOR HIS GOVT'S DECISION TO ABSTAIN. HE PUT HEAVIEST EMPHASIS ON INTERNAL CONDITIONS IN SOUTH KOREA WHICH HIS GOVT DID NOT APPROVE AND EMPHASIZED THAT FIJI HAD FELT LET DOWN AFTER 1972 VOTE IN WHICH FIJI HAD SUPPORTED ROK, ONLY TO HAVE ROK GOVT TAKE STERN DOMESTIC MEASURES SHORTLY AFTER GA ACTION. AMB BENNETT QUESTIONED WHETHER INTERNAL SITUATION PROVIDED PROPER BASIS FOR DECISION ON GA VOTING AND WENT ON TO ASK HIM FRANKLY, ON BASIS OF THEIR WARM PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP, WHETHER HE REALLY WAS MAINTAINING THAT NORTH KOREA OFFERED ITS PEOPLE MORE DEMOCRATIC CONDITIONS THAN DID ROK. HE WAS QUICK TO ADMIT THAT OF COURSE IT DID NOT. HOWEVER, IT SEEMED CLEAR THAT UNHAPPINESS WITH ROK DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION HAS INFLUENCED SIKIVOU'S THINKING AND, ACCORDING TO HIM THAT OF SUVA GOVERNMENT AS WELL.

5. SIKIVOU SEEMED SO DETERMINED ON ABSTENTION IN EVENT NO CONSENSUS REACHED THAT AMB BENNETT DECIDED TO CONCENTRATE ON NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF HOSTILE RESOLUTION. AMB BENNETT POINTED OUT THAT LATTER DID NOT EVEN MENTION PEACE NOR NEED FOR MAINTENANCE OF ARMISTICE ARRANGEMENTS NOR DID IT ACKNOWLEDGE RESPONSIBILITY OF SC IN FUTURE HANDLING OF KOREAN PROBLEM (LATTER POINT HAD BEEN MADE BY SIKIVOU HIMSELF). HOSTILE RESOLUTION WAS A VERY BAD ONE, AND AT LEAST FIJI SHOULD VOTE AGAINST THAT RESOLUTION EVEN IF IT CONSIDERED IT HAD TO ABSTAIN ON OURS. THIS ARGUMENTATION SEEMED TO MAKE SOME IMPRESSION ON SIKIVOU AND HE VOLUNTEERED THAT HE WOULD PRESENT THESE CONSIDERATIONS TO HIS GOVT'S ATTENTION. AMB BENNETT STRESSED TO HIM THAT WE NEEDED A NEGATIVE VOTE ON HOSTILE RESOLUTION.

6. SUBSEQUENT TO THIS DISCUSSION COSPONSORS FRIENDLY RESOLUTION DECIDED (TENTATIVELY (SEPTEL THAT IMMEDIATELY AFTER FRIENDLY RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY FIRST COMMITTEE, WE WOULD MAKE PROCEDURAL MOTION TO PREVENT HOSTILE RESOLUTION FROM BEING CONFIDENTIAL

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PUT O VOTE ON GROUNDS COMMITTEE HAD JUST TAKEN DECISION ON KOREAN ITEM. USING THIS NEW STRATEGY AS PRETEXT, NEW ZEALANDERS NOW PLAN TO MAKE NEW DEMARCHE IN SUVA TO URGE THAT FIJI SUPPORT US ON THIS PROCEDURAL MOVE (AUTHORIZED BY RULE 131 OF GA RULES OF PROCEDURE). THEY WILL NOT MENTION FRIENDLY RESOLUTION.

7. AIM WOULD BE FIJI ABSTENTION ON FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AND

VOTE IN FAVOR OF PROCEDURAL MOTION TO BLOCK VOTE ON HOSTILE
RESOLUTION. WE SHOULD ALSO ASK FOR NEGATIVE VOTE ON HOSTILE
RESOLUTION IN CASE IT IS PRESENTED. IF DEPARTMENT AGREES, WE
SUGGEST EMBASSY FIJI DISCUSS WITH NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSIONER
WISDOM OF OUR MAKING JOINT OR PARALLEL DEMARCHE IN SUVA.
FYI: VOTE NOW SCHEDULED FOR LATE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6. END FYI.
BENNETT UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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